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Polto 2045; Bonn's 1579; ~~Depot Paris~~ Topol 2431

Department shares Bonn's concern circulation of Spaak paper may shape conception of NATO governments on tactics of reply to Soviet note, and substance of Western position. As Bonn's 1579 indicates, Spaak in Section VII has advanced ideas which are incompletely expounded, confusing, and potentially dangerous in effort to break out of current deadlock. Paper seems to have been written without profound understanding of extensive history of debate and negotiation on subjects of European Security and German reunification between East and West.

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While

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Dictated by: EUR:GER:ACVigderman:dg

Telegraphic transmission and classification approved by:

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While appreciating wish of Spaak and NATO to participate in formulation of Western tactics and position, fact remains that considering responsibilities of Four Western Powers, the evolution of positions and tactics must be their responsibility in the first instance. NATO consultation necessarily comes at a later stage. Accordingly Spaak should be advised that we are studying his paper in conjunction with the other studies now going forward, but that our own opinions on the matter have not yet reached point where they could be usefully provided to him or NATO. He should be urged to take line with Council that discussion this subject will be most useful only after Four Powers have themselves developed a line to be taken in the reply, and subsequently, on the substance of the Western position, along lines ~~SECRET~~ ^{TOPOL} 2/31. Four Power draft reply should be ready in two weeks for NATO to consider.

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